Exports has projected an export target of US $ 5080 million for the leather sector in 2010-11 as compared to the achievement of US $ 2380 million in 2004-05.

(c) and (d) The industry has shown a willingness to adopt global manufacturing practices to improve the quality of its products. To support such initiatives, a scheme called "Benchmarks for production units in the Indian leather sector" is being implemented by the Central Leather Research Institute under the Integrated Leather Development Programme for the Tenth Five Year Plan period. The industry in all the states, including Orissa, can benefit from the scheme.

Export to Latin American Countries

3350. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to boost export of Indian Goods in Latin American countries;

(b) if so, the details of problems being faced by Indian exporters to reach to distant Latin American countries; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to boost export of goods and services in Latin American countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no major problem reported in effecting exports to the Latin American countries except for the high transportation costs on account of the long distances involved. To boost Indian exports to this region, an integrated programme called "Focus LAC" was initiated in 1997, under which exchanges of trade delegations, participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, organisation of buyer-seller meets etc. are being carried out.

Licenses to Manufacture Gutka

3351. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gutka is a scheduled industry under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 and if so, the number of licenses granted to manufacture Gutka during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases of manufacture of Gutka that came to the notice of Government for violation of the provision of the aforesaid Act during the same period; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Gutka is not a scheduled industry under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. Industrial License if not required for manufacture of Gutka.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Allowing Higher Export of Onions

3352. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of steep fall in onion prices, Government are considering for increasing the export quantity of onions to neighbouring States; and

(b) if so, the details of any action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) To check the sliding prices of onion and to sustain the production levels by providing adequate price realization to the farmers, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. has started procuring onion w.e.f. 17 April, 2006 from lasalgaon and Pimpalgaon in Maharashtra. Onions so procured, would be exported to Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Dubai, Saudi Arabia and Mauritius. For this proper marketing, strategy would be adopted by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. which includes grading, reliability, quality and pricing of onions.